

MAJOR GENERAL AUGUSTUS
"LEON" COLLINS, ADJUTANT
GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts to recognize Major General Augustus "Leon" Collins, commanding general of both the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. Since 2012, Major General Collins has served as the Adjutant General of Mississippi and plans to retire at the beginning of September.

Major General Collins has served in the military for 35 years, starting as a private with Company B, 1st Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment. He completed officer candidate school and later served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. From 2004 to 2006, he commanded the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I have served with Major General Collins at nearly all levels of command. As a tank company commander, Captain Collins was one of the finest. His troops respected and loved him and accomplished tasks other units would not have dared to attempt. As a Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Collins led his Battalion to be one of the best. Finally, as a Brigade Commander of a Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, Brigadier General Collins continued his path of excellence. Brigadier General Collins led the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Rifles, in a full spectrum mission; his unit once again excelled because of his leadership and the high level of respect and trust he earned among his soldiers. He did this while many of his soldiers were impacted by the devastating news of Hurricane Katrina at home in Mississippi.

During Major General Collins' tenure in Iraq, he led two future congressmen. After we were elected to the 114th Congress, Mr. Moulton and I realized we had previously met while serving in Iraq with Major General Collins. This is representative of the diverse lives Major General Collins has led and mentored during his storied career.

As Major General Collins retires from the military, I know he will continue to be a leader in the state and nation. He has been a mentor and role model for a generation of soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard. I am honored to have served with him at all levels of command.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY
JEZOWSKI-SURGE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Jezowski-Surge, a longtime Michigan resident, and an original Rosie the Riveter. Mary was born on September 1, 1922 and is celebrating her 94th birthday this year. Mary and the original Rosie the Riveters paved the way for women in the workforce, forever changing our nation with their bravery, grace and gusto.

In World War II, enlistment left gaping holes in the labor force, prompting women to join the ranks of male factory workers. These inspiring women were collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter" and worked building planes, tanks, and other armaments for soldiers fighting abroad. Mary worked at the Cadillac Plant in Detroit building tanks for American troops. She began her time in the factory as a grinder, eventually becoming a welder. She recalls the thrill that came with climbing up on top of the tanks to do her welding. Mary eventually left the Cadillac Plant to begin work at the Lincoln Plant where she built airplane engines. More than 310,000 women joined the U.S. aircraft industry in 1943, comprising a stunning 65 percent of the aviation industry's total workforce. Mary and other women who worked in Michigan's aviation plants were honored for their efforts and have their names engraved on a plaque at Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, Michigan. The contributions of Mary and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mary for her contributions to the war effort, and for her fearlessness as a trailblazer for women in the workforce. The values that Mary and the Rosies embodied—patriotism, bravery and resolve—are ones we all must strive to emulate. The Rosies are a vitally important part of American history, and their impact on the workforce will never diminish. Their story is one we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for generations to come, and their spirit and legacy will forever remind us that we all wield the power to positively contribute to our country.

HONORING ANGELO TSAKOPOULOS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angelo Tsakopoulos on his 80th birthday for his legendary career in real estate development and his long history of philanthropy in California.

Born in Greece, Mr. Tsakopoulos came to America at 15, sailing into New York City under the inspiring gaze of the Statue of Liberty. He moved to Chicago to live with family, before eventually continuing west to the San Joaquin Valley in California. Encouraged by a close mentor to continue his education, Mr. Tsakopoulos studied political science and business at California State University, Sacramento.

While attending school, Mr. Tsakopoulos supported himself as a real estate salesman, foreshadowing his highly successful career in real estate development. Mr. Tsakopoulos founded AKT Development Corporation in Sacramento, California, which became a leading real estate developer in the area under his leadership and has built tens of thousands of homes and more than 30 million square feet of office space.

Mr. Tsakopoulos and his family have also been dedicated supporters of civic and community causes. The Tsakopoulos family has

donated land and funds to cultural institutions including the Greek Orthodox Church, the Crocker Art Museum, and the Roseville Arts Center. Mr. Tsakopoulos has also had a strong commitment to supporting education through the Angelo and Sofia Tsakopoulos Endowment Fund and as a co-chair for California State University, Sacramento's Capital Campaign. To support the study and celebration of Greek heritage and history, Mr. Tsakopoulos served as an instrumental figure in the creation of the S.B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, Angelo Tsakopoulos has led a tremendously successful career and has become a leader in both business and community causes in our state. His work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sacramento and our larger California community, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Tsakopoulos here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 405, on July 12, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to adjourn.

Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SACRIFICE OF MICHAEL SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and sacrifice of a man who served his country and the city of Dallas humbly for over thirty years. On July 7, 2016, Michael Smith was the first of five Dallas public officers who were fatally shot during a protest in downtown Dallas. The shooting was a calculated and senseless act of violence intended to tear our community apart. Instead, our community has rallied to support Michael Smith's loved ones, and honor his legacy. Michael Smith's strong, humble, and loving life is the perfect representation of Dallas' resilience in times of duress.

Smith worked in the Dallas Police Department for over twenty-five years. During his time in the department, he gained a reputation for doing thorough and dependable work. He was recognized multiple times throughout his career, most notably winning the distinguished honor of being called the "Cops' Cop." The only thing that outweighed his work ethic at the department was his easygoing and affable manner. Prior to joining the Dallas Police Department, Smith served seven years as an Army Ranger, where he developed a strong sense of service and an unparalleled dedication to helping others.

Though Smith's record of public service is incredible, he was best known for his role in the community. On Sundays, he acted as a uniformed guard at the Watermark Church in

Farmers Branch. There, he charmed children every Sunday by showing them his squad car or telling them dry but easy jokes. People at the church were both protected and entertained by Smith. He is survived by his wife, a Catholic school teacher whom he met teaching racquetball to deserving youth at a YMCA, as well as their two beautiful daughters.

Mr. Speaker, the shooting in Dallas is a tragedy of enormous proportions. However, the impact Michael Smith made to the Dallas community and his loved ones is far bigger. Today, we honor his life.

REGARDING H.R. 5631, H.R. 4992
AND H.R. 5119

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the three bills designed to weaken or undermine the nuclear agreement with Iran.

According to the IAEA, which conducts thorough, systematic and regular evaluations of Iran's nuclear energy activities, Iran is complying with its obligations under the JCPOA. The core of the Arak plutonium reactor was dismantled and destroyed, 19,000 centrifuges were put under close IAEA surveillance and 98 percent of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium was removed out of the country. As long as Iran continues to fulfill its commitments, it is important that the U.S. not jeopardize the accord by abandoning its own. That is why these bills are so reckless.

H.R. 5631 requires the re-imposition of sanctions on individuals and entities that were delisted on Implementation Day; H.R. 4992 re-applies secondary sanctions on Iran's financial sector by prohibiting permissible financial transactions between Iran and the international community that are outside the U.S. financial system; and, H.R. 5119 prevents the U.S. from procuring heavy water from Iran. The United States does not produce heavy water so American industries and labs which need nuclear material for research must seek out international sources. This bill will cut American companies off from that important resource while also forcing Iran to sell its heavy water on the international market, where it can fall into dangerous hands.

The JCPOA is working. It has disassembled key elements of Iran's nuclear program and subjects the Iranians to unprecedented verification and monitoring requirements. As a result, all of Iran's pathways to a weapon have been blocked and the U.S. and our allies are safer. Taken together, these bills will require the U.S. to re-impose sanctions on Iran in violation of our obligation under the agreement to "refrain from any policy specifically intended to directly and adversely affect the normalization of trade and economic relations with Iran."

The JCPOA does not threaten U.S. foreign policy objectives. It does not require the U.S. to abandon its sanctions on Iran for its human rights abuses or terrorist activities. Those sanctions were not affected by the JCPOA in any way. The U.S. also retains its right to target Iran's ballistic missiles activities and to penalize Iran for its destabilizing regional activities.

Before the U.S. signed the agreement, the world was a significantly less safe place. Iran

had thousands of centrifuges spinning to increase its large stockpile of enriched uranium and Iran was only two to three months away from developing a bomb. When the JCPOA was signed, Iran agreed to ship tens of thousands of pounds of enriched uranium out of the country, two-thirds of Iran's centrifuges were dismantled or removed, and the international community was provided unprecedented access to Iran's nuclear facilities and supply chain.

These bills are not tough; they are foolish. They could recklessly endanger the security gains we have made as a result of the JCPOA.

GUN VIOLENCE AND ZIKA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a plague wreaking havoc on our nation . . . a sickness that brings in its wake the death of innocent children in communities all across the United States . . . mass shootings in our elementary schools, on our playgrounds, in our homes, stores, restaurants, and places of work. Innocent people are being slaughtered by criminals using military style weapons. . . . like the ruthless killer who shot and killed 49 young kids out having fun at a disco in my congressional district in Orlando, Florida.

Few countries make it easier than the United States for someone to buy an assault weapon to kill their victims in a matter of minutes. The horrific massacre in Orlando is only the latest example, and Mr. Mateen was able to kill so many people mainly because the assault rifle he was using could fire 30-round clips as fast as he could pull the trigger. No civilian anywhere should be allowed to have that ability. These types of weapons should be reserved only for our brave men and women in the military.

And so I take to the House floor once again, to demand that the House majority allow a vote on commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. Although not a cure all, we need to do all we can to help keep military type assault weapons out of dangerous hands so mass killings like the one that took place just last month in my district, which was, incidentally, the worst mass shooting in our nation's history, never happens again.

Month after month—Republicans in the House of Representatives have refused to increase funding to combat a dangerous public health crisis that is already hitting our country, and that has already arrived in my State of Florida: Zika virus.

Along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Florida congressional delegation, I am imploring the House of Representatives to consider fully funding efforts to combat this horrible disease. Indeed, over 250 people in the State of Florida have been diagnosed with Zika, including 43 pregnant women. This virus is not only a threat to our health and the health of pregnant mothers, but also to our economy and our everyday lives. And shifting funds from one public health crisis like Ebola, to another, is absolutely NOT an acceptable solution.

If we do not act immediately, we will see more and more babies born with Zika virus, and trying to figure out why Congress did not do more to help them. Congress needs to immediately provide the funding necessary for mosquito eradication, vaccine research, and our local community health centers so they can provide screenings and comprehensive health services.

HONORING CHANDLER RALPH ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Chandler Ralph, the Chief Executive Officer of Adirondack Health.

Ms. Ralph has dedicated 21 years of public service to the Adirondack community by expanding vital medical services across the Tri-Lakes Region. She first took the reins of Adirondack Medical Center as President and Chief Executive Officer in 1995. Since then, Ms. Ralph has worked tirelessly to provide access to quality patient care and has shown a firm commitment to improving the lives of those her organization has served.

Throughout her career, Ms. Ralph has served as the Vice President for Operations and Planning at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Senior Manager with the Health Care Operations Consulting Group for Ernst & Young, and President and CEO for Mercy Center for Health Services at Mercy Hospital in Watertown, New York, before arriving at Adirondack Medical Center.

In her community, she has been actively involved in organizations such as St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, the Saranac Lake Rotary Club, the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation, and the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York.

Professionally, Ms. Ralph is a member of the American Hospital Association, the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE), the ACHE's Regent's Advisory Committee, the Northeastern New York Healthcare Association, the Federation of American Health Systems, the Adirondack Health Institute, the New York State Medicaid Redesign Task Force, and the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. In addition, she is the founding chair of the Helena Ptochia Foundation, which strives to raise capital and operational funds to build and operate a hospital for women injured during childbirth in Ghana, West Africa.

These accomplishments have earned Ms. Ralph the Adirondack Health Foundation's Dr. Edward L. Trudeau Award, the Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce Athena Award, the New York State Woman of Distinction Award, the Friends of Mercy Award, the Health Care Association of New York State's Innovation Award for establishing the North Country Uninsured Task Force, the American College of Healthcare Executives' Regent's Award, and the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award.

On this day, I want to take a moment to thank Ms. Chandler Ralph for her years of service to our district. Chandler, congratulations on your retirement, you are a true leader